

ABSTRACT

NEW STRATEGY FOR DRUG DESIGN

The present invention provides methods for identifying an agent that alters, preferably increases, an NMDA receptor mediated response in a neuron. The method includes contacting the neuron with the agent, where the neuron includes an NMDA receptor and an elevated level of PKC. The neuron can be *ex vivo*, *in vitro*, or *in vivo*. The present invention also provides methods for identifying an agent that, in an animal, reduces pain from a neuropathological condition.

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Gara L. Ladwig

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Gara L. Ladwig